

shall be promptly sent through appropriate channels to the initiating official, and the contracting officer, if necessary. If the debarring official determines to commence debarment procedures, he/she shall, after consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, notify the contractor in accordance with FAR 9.406-3(c). If the proposed action is not based on a conviction or judgement and the contractor's submission in response to the notice raises a genuine dispute over facts material to the proposed debarment, the debarring official shall arrange for fact-finding hearings and take the necessary action specified in FAR 9.406-3(b)(2). The debarring official shall also ensure that written findings of facts are prepared, and shall base the debarment decisions on the facts as found, after considering information and argument submitted by the contractor and any other information in the administrative record. The Office of the General Counsel shall represent the Department at any fact-finding hearing and may present witnesses for HHS and question any witnesses presented by the contractor.

309.407 Suspension.

309.407-3 Procedures.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* Whenever an apparent cause for suspension becomes known to an initiating official, that person shall prepare a report incorporating the information required by 309.470-2, if known, and forward it through appropriate channels, with a written recommendation, to the suspending official. Contracting officers shall forward their reports in accordance with 309.470-1. The suspending official shall initiate an investigation through such means as he/she deems appropriate.

(b) *Decisionmaking process.* The suspending official shall review the results of the investigation, if any, and make a written determination whether or not suspension should be imposed. A copy of this determination shall be promptly sent through appropriate channels to the initiating official and the contracting officer, if necessary. If the suspending official determines to impose suspension, he/she shall, after consultation with the Office of the General

Counsel, notify the contractor in accordance with FAR 9.407-3(c). If the action is not based on an indictment, and, subject to the provisions of FAR 9.407-3(b)(2), the contractor's submission in response to the notice raises a genuine dispute over facts material to the suspension, the suspending official shall, after suspension has been imposed, arrange for fact-finding hearings and take the necessary actions specified in FAR 9.407-3(b)(2).

309.470 Reporting of suspected causes for debarment or suspension, or the taking of evasive actions.

309.470-1 Situations where reports are required.

A report incorporating the information required by 309.470-2 shall be forwarded, in duplicate, by the contracting officer through acquisition channels to OGAM when:

(a) A contractor has committed, or is suspected of having committed, any of the acts described in FAR 9.406-2 or FAR 9.407-2; or

(b) A contractor is suspected of attempting to evade the prohibitions of debarment or suspension imposed under this subject, or any other comparable regulation, by changes of address, multiple addresses, formation of new companies, or by other devices.

309.470-2 Contents of reports.

Each report prepared under 309.470-1 shall be coordinated with the Office of the General Counsel and shall include the following information, where available:

(a) Name and address of contractor.

(b) Name of the principal officers, partners, owners, or managers.

(c) All known affiliates, subsidiaries, or parent firms, and the nature of the affiliation.

(d) Description of the contract or contracts concerned, including the contract number, and office identifying numbers or symbols, the amount of each contract, the amount paid the contractor and the amount still due, and the percentage of work completed and to be completed.

(e) The status of vouchers.

(f) Whether contract funds have been assigned pursuant to the Assignment of Claims Act, as amended, (31 U.S.C. 3727,